

VERMILION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

Minutes of August 18, 2020 - 6:00pm | Zoom Meeting

Roll Call: T. Parker (Chairman); B. Scholtz (Vice-Chair), W. Warden, D. Brudney, L. Elden, K. Repola. Not Present: J. Keck

Also, Present: C. Kuhns, RECREATION DIRECTOR; Mark Weisenberger, PARKS SUPERVISOR; B. Holmes, COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Guests: Mayor Forthofer

Terry Parker, Chairman called the August 18, 2020 meeting to order.

B. Warden MOVED, B. Scholtz seconded to approve the meeting minutes of July 21, 2020. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE:

Sandy Coe said in discussions she had with Marilou Suszko of Main Street Vermilion they would like to propose incorporating a dog park in honor of Dick Goddard that is located somewhere in Vermilion. Mayor Forthofer said the city is okay with this and they would handle the donations through the finance department like how they handled the pool donations. T. Parker said he had a brief discussion with M. Weisenberger about this and there are some potential locations that might work within their parks. M. Suszko said because they're talking about kicking off a fundraising campaign on October 4, they are looking at about six weeks to get this ready and they need the public to embrace the location and they need ideas on what this park is going to look like. She doesn't think they need to call in a dog park designer, but suggested getting citizens together to gather the basic components of a dog park which would include fencing, double-gated entry, large/small dog side, and a water source. She said as the parks board considers a location they need to think about something with at least three acres – not saying they need to fence in three acres, but if you have three acres than you know you have enough room for a two-acre dog park. The dog park in Huron at Osborne Park is three acres, but they do not need this much.

B. Holmes said the last time he was at Sherod Park he noticed a water source at the old baseball diamond near where the dugouts use to be. He said it is a big open space and they may be concerned with fencing the area near the lake.

M. Suszko asked if they should wait to hear from T. Parker regarding who on the parks board will join them in looking at the site. T. Parker said Tony Valerius and Marc Weisenberger should be involved and he and B. Scholtz are willing to be a part of this as well. T. Parker said he will get with Marilou to set up a meeting.

M. Suszko addressed the postcard locations as back in May she attended a parks board meeting for postcard placement and at that time she was granted permission to put a postcard in Friendship Park and Rotary Park. At that time, they decided a couple days later to go in another direction. Therefore, she would like to revisit the opportunity to put a postcard in Rotary Park. The postcard is of the original bridge that spans the Vermilion River and it will go toward the northern part of the park, but she needs the boards approval. She conveyed that Rotary is very excited to have it at their park. She has already met with Terry Pena to discuss the water irrigation system to make sure they wouldn't be digging into that because this is a postcard that is mounted on 4x4's. It's postcard number 13 out of 15 and the quality of the postcards are beautiful. She is excited to get it in Rotary Park as it is one of the most underutilized parks. She is asking for permission to install this postcard at this location. B. Warden asked what the people from the Rotary say about this. M. Suszko said she met with them today and they love it and the idea of it being there.

B. Warden MOVED, B. Scholtz seconded to approve the placement of a postcard in Rotary Park as requested by Marilou Suszko. Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

Community Use Group Permit:

Anne Naugle of the Vermilion Beach Market said even though the market was cancelled this year she wanted to thank the board for their continued support as she appreciates them making adjustments to their refund policy. She also refunded the vendors 100 percent of their vendor fee, but unfortunately, she cannot make any contribution to the parks department this year. She submitted paperwork for the market for 2021. She said in the spring of this year she was granted a non-profit status and was curious as to what her parks fee will be for 2021 if the board approves her event. She mentioned as a non-profit she has chosen to partner with a non-profit "Alliance with the Great Lakes" which is headquartered in Chicago and they have an office in Cleveland. They are a grassroots environmental organization who works to protect the waters of the Great Lakes. In partnership with them she hosted an Adopt a Beach program, which is one of their programs and she did a beach clean up at Sherod Park and will continue to do this every year. She said if the board gives approval to her event next year what would her park permit use fee be. T. Parker conveyed that since she is a nonprofit there is no fee.

She conveyed the Vermilion Beach Market is planned for August 6-7, 2021. B. Warden said his only concern with this event is the parking situation if it rains. A. Naugle said they will do their best of keeping cars off the grassy areas and using the parking lots. She understands damage will be assessed if that happens. She said the city will provide them with cones to block off the grassy areas, which is her intention.

B. Scholtz MOVED, L. Elden seconded to approve the Community Use Group Permit for the Vermilion Beach Market on August 6-7, 2020. Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

C. Kuhns reported they finished their baseball/softball season with no major incidents involving COVID. He said they had just enough sponsors and he thanked Dewey Furniture for sponsoring three teams, Homeworks for sponsoring two teams, along with B&J Handyman Services, Vermilion Township Fire Department, Ohio Lawns LLC, and the Vermilion Vet Clinic.

He said they had two champion teams in the baseball season both in the regular and tournament games for 13-15-year-old boys, and 10-12-year-old boys. As far as football, the league they have played in for several years voted to play in the spring. The SBC League for Youth Football reached out to them to say they had one extra spot if Vermilion's sixth grade team would want to play this fall. So, they will move forward with practicing in late August and the games will start in late September.

SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Tony Valerius mentioned the city received a phone call from Mrs. Stuchel who lives in the house at the end of Main Street as one of the trees behind her house that is on park property lost a limb and she had Edwards Tree take it down because it was threatening her home. Therefore, he went to the property with the Tree Commission Chairman to assess the tree and it was determined the tree needed to come down for the safety of the home. He received a quote for \$1,250 to remove the tree and he gave the go ahead.

Additionally, he noted that Betsy Wakefield made a comment regarding the shed behind the museum as late at night they get gatherings of kids behind the shed, and to avoid further issues or places for kids to hide they discussed taking the shed out of the area. He will remove the shed and fence as it is no longer needed there.

PARK'S SUPERVISOR REPORT:

M. Weisenberger reported the swing sets at Pineview Pool are installed and they have enough mulch leftover to do Victory park. He said they received the 12' utility trailer and will be putting it to use.

He conveyed the remaining gazebo roof material has been delivered and installed at Victory Park. He reported the shade structure at the Skate Spot has been ordered and once they receive it, they will install it.

He said he received two memorial bench requests and Wendy Tolson would like to place a bench in memory of her son at Main Street beach near the lighthouse, and Kate Thompson would like to place a bench in memory of her mother at Sherod Park (west side of the park near the water). T. Parker said in the past the board has said if they are in favor of the idea then the actual placement would be worked out between the providing families and the Park Supervisor.

B. Scholtz MOVED, B. Warden seconded to approve the two memorial bench requests made by Wendy Tolson and Kate Thompson. Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

B. Warden advised M. Weisenberger that there is a large branch hanging down from one of the trees towards the eastern end of Showse and asked if it could be taken down. M. Weisenberger said they already took care of it.

Budget/Finance Subcommittee Report:

B. Scholtz discussed the fact that raises took place for most full-time union staff for the city and felt the parks board should consider applying a similar raise for Marc and David in the parks department. He believed it was a two percent raise. Mayor Forthofer explained there is a me-too clause based off the contract with the Local 860 and all non-union employees receive 2 percent the first year and 2 ½ percent the second and third year of the contract. B. Warden asked if this would also cover Chad Kuhns as Recreation Director. G. Fisher explained that Chad's position is an appointed position by the mayor and the ordinance is renewed annually and this is when increases are discussed once the ordinance comes before City Council each year. T. Parker said there is room in the operating budget for two parks employees but asked if Chad's salary comes from the recreation fund. B. Scholtz said they need to explore this with the finance director to see where is allocated from. *(Clerk's note to the board: Upon conclusion of the meeting and in discussing this with the finance director it was relayed that Chad's salary comes from Fund 205 -Recreation Fund)*

L. Elden MOVED, B. Scholtz seconded to approve the raises for Marc Weisenberger and David in the Parks Department per the me-too clause in conjunction with the Local 860 Union Contract for the next three years. Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

Community Relations/Publicity: No report.

Erosion:

M. Weisenberger said he talked with another contractor but never received a quote, so the decision is to proceed with awarding the contract to Justin Miller since he was the lower quote. B. Warden asked if he had a start date. M. Weisenberger said he did not get an exact start date, but he asked Justin if he could commit to getting the work done this fall and he said they could do that. B. Warden asked if he ever submitted a bill for the blocks. B. Scholtz said he had not as he was waiting until he begins the project. T. Parker said the money was encumbered a long time ago and it has been on hold because the water has been too high. M. Weisenberger said he will get with Justin one more time to look at the project.

Main Street Beach Revitalization Project: No report

Sherod Playground:

T. Parker said there has been no movement on this issue, but they have passed this portfolio to L. Elden.

Recreation and School Relations:

T. Parker said they are attempting to meet with the school board, but they have been busy.

Vermilion Community Pool:

D. Brudney said they have been working the last couple weeks trying to get information to provide to Dr. Orr and the intern once this program kicks in. He said they had meetings with pool related companies that came and looked at the pool. All three companies provided information on what they felt they needed to do. They will pass along this information to the board. There were two estimates given for the roof at the pool and a third estimate came in for a possible repair. The BGSU Intern Program was given requirements for the interns on what they are looking for. They had two interns who were interested in the program and they must interview them. He said he along with T. Parker, M. Weisenberger, and Kate Repola will help with the interview process. He said there is a possibility of using both interns in the program with shared hours.

D. Brudney said they scheduled a pool subcommittee meeting for August 20 at 3:30 p.m. at the Valleyview Pool, and they will go over all the information on what can be done at the pool. They will provide all the data to the board members after this meeting. He said he has been in contact with Mr. Pempin, but things have changed again with the schools, so he has been busy, but they will eventually set up a meeting with him.

Showse Park Erosion:

T. Parker mentioned this erosion work pends review with ODNR, but it should not be a problem because it is a repair and it is above the high-water line.

Financial Reports:

T. Parker said they are proceeding along financially according to the plans they have mapped out on the capital and operating end.

New Business:

B. Warden said he read in the paper there was vandalism at the Skate Spot, and he was curious what this amounted to. M. Weisenberger said it was a situation that involved the contractor of the new fire station as kids got into spray paint and insulation foam and sprayed a few areas around the Skate Spot. They were able to get to it quick, so they got most of it off.

ADJOURNMENT:

B. Scholtz MOVED, B. Warden seconded to adjourn the meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday – September 15, 2020 @ **6:00 pm** at location TBD

*~Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk
Vermilion City Council/Boards and Commissions*